



Victory Through Training

from CAC-T Deputy Commander Col. Charles Lombardo

Training capability gaps met with Games For Training bridge solution

Commanders, deputy commanders and trainers across the Army - this update is the first of many training updates to be published through Combined Arms Center-Training to continue to expose the force to training capabilities currently fielded or soon to be fielded.

TRADOC Proponent Office (TPO)-Virtual and Gaming, headed up by Lt. Col. Mike Stinchfield, and TPO- Synthetic Training Environment (STE), headed up by Col. Jim Pangelinan, have been designing solutions to bridge some of the gaps between the sun-setting of legacy training capabilities such as the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer (AVCATT), the Close Combat Tactical Trainer (CCTT) and the future fielding of STE capabilities. Many of these bridging capabilities will use Virtual Battlespace 3 (VBS3), which focuses on maintaining training capabilities that are easy to access and use while we are transitioning to the STE.

VBS3 is the Army's 'Games for Training' 3D first-person training simulation. The semi-immersive, visually-rich simulation environment was initially made available to the Army in 2009 as VBS2 and in 2014 the Army began using VBS3.

Since I have arrived at CAC-T, I have been able to travel to multiple locations such as Fort Hood, Fort Riley and Joint

Base Lewis McChord to discuss training capabilities within the Mission Training Complexes. Each of these locations, as well as others across the Army, demonstrate best practices for the integration of VBS3 capabilities into training simulators to support both individual and collective training for our Soldiers. These examples demonstrate how units have used VBS3 and added commercial, off-the-shelf hardware to create a more immersive simulator-type system.

Pangelinan and his TPO team have recently published two documents explaining how to leverage these capabilities within your MTCs and training locations. The documents, "Leveraging Virtual Battlespace During Modernization" and "Leveraging the Engagement Skills Trainer During Modernization, FY 20 - FY27" are both excellent documents to give leaders solutions to assist bridging the gaps between legacy capabilities

and the STE and can be found at https://cacmdc.army.mil/cact/NSC/tcmste/Lib_Public/Forms/AllItems.aspx (you will need to log in with your CAC to access the documents).

Future quarterly updates will continue to highlight the capabilities that CAC-T and TRADOC Proponent Offices are assisting in developing and bringing to our Soldiers.



Combined Arms Center-Training Deputy Commander Col. Charles Lombardo checks out the Stryker Virtual Trainers and Virtual Battlespace 3 systems during a recent trip to the Mission Training Complex at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

DOCTRINE UPDATE

The updated Army Field Manual 7-0 is scheduled to be published in spring, 2021.

A couple of the major changes to FM 7-0 focus on simplifying the training doctrine and the structure of the FM.

The doctrine will be simplified by re-introducing the Training management Cycle as the core framework - Replacing the previous framework that described training management through the 'operations and planning process' and 'mission command philosophy.'

The structure of the FM is changing to use clear and concise language with a base document that includes 11 detailed appendices containing expanded 'how to' details.

Other changes include emphasizing the critical role of senior leaders and NCOs within training and endorsements by senior Army leadership.

Right: examples of the vehicle convoy/gunnery trainer using Virtual Battlespace 3 set up at the Fort Riley Mission Training Complex.



TRAINING TOOLS YOU CAN USE

Digital Job Book and Small Unit Leader Tool

The Army Training Management Directorate has enabled access to training information directly from the Army Training Network (ATN) website through the Army's Digital Job Book and Small Unit Leader Tool at atn.army.mil/digital-job-book.

Soldiers and leaders can now easily access training records using a username and password on their personal computers and

smart devices. Previously these two tools were only available via Army Knowledge Online (AKO) on government computers with Common Access Card (CAC) authentication.

Follow the link to the Digital Job Book and Small Unit Leader Tool tutorials with an introduction from Combined Arms Center Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Dostie. <https://vimeo.com/466682207>

